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Dean, William Patrick. **Ultra-Large Aircraft, 1940-1970: The Development of Guppy and Expanded Fuselage Transports.** Jefferson, N.C., McFarland, 2018. 304p. illus. index. \$49.95pa. ISBN 13: 978-1-4766-6503-0; 978-1-4766-3015-1 (e-book).

Aviation history consists of a tremendous variety of aircraft from today's emphasis on unpiloted aircraft to a variety of civil and military aircraft with various sizes and purposes. Documenting the history of these aircraft requires deep investigation into their historic successes and failures using a variety of information resources. This work focuses on ultra-large aircraft originating from the logistical needs of World War II and its aftermath.

Contents provide detailed technical and operational information on these aircraft including the Consolidated Vultee; the Douglas Globemaster Series; Douglas Aircraft and Aviation Traders Ltd.; and the Boeing Strate Series and Aero Spacelines. Examples of specific aircraft documented and analyzed within these categories include the Convair B-36 Peacemaker, C-124 Globemaster II, DC-4 (C-54)/ATL-98 Corvair, and B-29 and B-50 Superfortress.

Entries for individual aircraft describe the factors responsible for their creation, information about the number built, armament and other technical features, supply problems, photographs, flight testing and military evaluation, interactions with foreign customers, and the types of civilian and military missions they performed. Topics addressed in the multiple appendixes include aircraft size comparisons, aircraft volume, and payload comparisons, production schedules, partial listings of scheduled flights, and a glossary of terms such as TACAN Tactical Air Navigation System.

This high quality work is further buttressed by an extensive bibliography of books, popular press magazine and newspaper articles, government reports, technical manuals, interviews, listings of websites, and letters and emails. Entries include documentation of problems with these programs resulting in accident investigations, legal proceedings, congressional hearings, and audits by government agencies such as the General Accounting Office and NASA.

This work is recommended for anyone interested in aviation history and the complex relationships between aviation companies, the military, and various government agencies including Congress and other federal agencies with civilian aviation policymaking responsibilities.—**Bert Chapman**